

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed January 13, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and pending claims are respectfully requested.

I. Application Title

The specification has been objected to for containing various informalities. Specifically, the Office Action states that the title is not descriptive.

In response to the objection, Applicant has amended the title to "Connection Arrangements for Electrical Devices having a Ledge on which Contact Terminals are Provided". In view of this change, Applicant respectfully submits that the title is adequately descriptive.

II. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 14-18, 21-23, and 26 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Baker, et al. ("Baker," U.S. Pat. No. 4,511,201). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is apparent from the foregoing, each of Applicant's independent claims has been amended through this response. In view of this, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections are moot as having been drawn against Applicant's claims in a previous form. Applicant discusses Applicant's claims and the cited art references in the following, however, for the Examiner's consideration.

A. The Baker Disclosure

Baker discloses a “module mounting assembly 1” that is used to mount a mounting module 2, such as an IC chip, to a circuit board 3. Baker, Figures 1 and 10. The module mounting assembly is required in the Baker system to form a connection between the module and the circuit board. As is described by Baker:

Module mounting assembly 1 is designed to hold module 2 on a circuit board and interconnect module terminals 20, via electrical conducting members 10, with conducting paths of the circuit board. After assembly of the component parts, hereinafter described in detail, *module mounting assembly 1 is positioned on a circuit board* and electrical conducting members 10 thereof attached to the circuit board conducting paths. Module 2 is subsequently positioned with respect to insulating member 11 so that module terminals 20 are aligned with electrical conducting members 10. Cover 14 is placed over module 2 and engaged with ring member 13 to clamp module 2 onto insulating member 11 and maintain each module terminal 20 in electrical engagement with a corresponding one of electrical conducting members 10. (Baker, column 5, lines 1-16, emphasis added)

B. Claim 14

Independent claim 14 provides as follows (emphasis added):

14. An assembly, comprising:
- an electrical device having a ledge on which a plurality of discrete, spaced contact terminals are provided; and
- a circuit board having a cavity* that is sized and configured to receive a portion of the electrical device and a plurality of contacts provided adjacent at least one edge of the cavity;

wherein the electrical device contact terminals are arranged in direct opposition to the circuit board contacts *when the electrical device is disposed within the circuit board cavity*.

As can be appreciated from the discussion of the Baker disclosure provided above, Baker clearly does not teach a circuit board having a “cavity” or an electrical device including a ledge being “disposed within the circuit board cavity”. Claim 14 and its dependents are allowable over Baker for at least this reason.

III. Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Rejection of Claims 19, 24-25, 27-33, 35-38, and 40-42

Claims 19, 24-25, 27-33, 35-38, and 40-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

As is noted above in relation to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102, Baker fails to teach explicit limitations of claim 14. Baker fails to render obvious claims 19, 24-25, and 27-29, which depend from claim 14, at least for those deficiencies.

Regarding independent claim 30, Applicant claims as follows (emphasis added):

30. An assembly, comprising:
a *circuit board* having a surface that includes a plurality of contacts;
an electrical device having a top layer, a middle layer, and a bottom layer, *wherein the bottom layer contacts the surface of the circuit board*, the top layer is smaller than the middle layer so as to form a ledge, and the ledge includes a plurality of discrete, spaced contact terminals; and

a plurality of conductors that extend down from the plurality of contact terminals of the electrical device to the plurality of contacts of the circuit board so as to electrically connect the electrical device to the circuit board.

Baker does not teach or suggest an electrical device having a ledge and a bottom layer, “wherein the bottom layer contact the surface of the circuit board”, as is required by claim 30. Claim 30 and its dependents are allowable over Baker for at least this reason.

Regarding independent claim 36, Applicant claims as follows (emphasis added):

36. An assembly, comprising:

a *circuit board* having a surface, a *cavity* formed within the surface, and a plurality of contacts provided on the surface adjacent an edge of the cavity;

an electrical device having a top layer, a middle layer, and a bottom layer, wherein the top layer is smaller than the middle layer so as to form a ledge, the ledge including a plurality of discrete, spaced contact terminals, *wherein the top layer is disposed within the cavity* of the circuit board such that contact terminals on the ledge of the electric device align and contact contacts on the surface of the circuit board.

As is noted above, Baker does not teach or suggest a circuit board having a cavity, and an electrical device having a ledge being disposed in the cavity. Claim 36 and its dependents are allowable over Baker for at least this reason.

B. Rejection of Claims 20, 34, and 39

Claims 20, 34, and 39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Baker in view of Browning (U.S. Pat. No. 6,629,193). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applicant notes that because the Browning reference issued after Applicant's filing date the instant application receives the benefit of the filing date of its parent application, which was filed on January 12, 2001, the Browning reference can only qualify as prior art as to Applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). The Browning reference, however, is not "by another" under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) because the subject matter of the Browning reference and Applicant's claimed inventions were owned by the same legal entity (i.e., the Hewlett-Packard Company) or were subject to an obligation of assignment to that the legal entity when the inventions were made. In such a case, the cited reference may not be used against the applicant's claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. See 35 U.S.C. § 103(c) ("Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under one or more of subsections (e), (f), and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.").

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is improper and requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

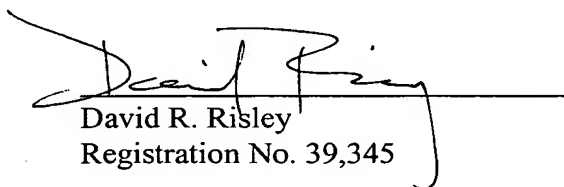
IV. Canceled Claims

As identified above, claims 15-17 and 24-26 have been canceled from the application through this Response without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant reserves the right to present these canceled claims, or variants thereof, in continuing applications to be filed subsequently.

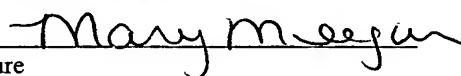
CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that Applicant's pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

2-28-05

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